

REMARKS

[0001] This Amendment is intended to raise new issues which require the Examiner's further consideration and/or search and prevent the issuance of a First Action Final Rejection.

[0002] The following paragraphs are numbered for ease of future reference. Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7,15-16, 18-19, 22-31, 33-35, 49-57, 59-62, 64, 66-67, 69-70 are all the claims presently pending in this application. Claims 1, 15, 22, 49 and 62 have been amended to more particularly define the claimed invention. The Specification support for the amendments to the independent claims may be found, for example, beginning at page 20, lines 13, and Fig. 8.

FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

[0003] In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-2, 4-5, 7,15-16, 18-19, 22-31, 33-35, 49-57, 59-62, 64, 66-67, 69-70, all of the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

[0004] Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic interview.

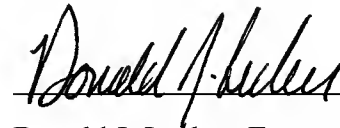
Application No. 09/772,244
Docket No. JP920000376US1

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[0005] The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Assignee's Deposit Account No. 09-0441.

Date: May 28, 2009

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald J. Lecher", written over a horizontal line.

Donald J. Lecher, Esq.
Registration No. 41,933

GIBB IP LAW FIRM, LLC
2568-A Riva Road, Suite 304
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
Voice: 410-573-6501
Fax: 301-261-8825
E-mail: Lecher@gibbiplaw.com
Customer No. 29154